

PERIWINKLE HOUSE

By OPIE READ

self. "Even Liberty Shottle, the slave of cards and dice, can see my weakness and must laugh at me. But by the God in Heaven it shall not be. In this land there is no law. I bring my own law with me, my oath, and a smile and a word of flattering love made me put it aside, and I let it slip from me. Now I must redeem myself."

He stood at the window. Gamecocks were crowing the dawn, a courageous challenge to all the world. No, there would be no weakening now. The sweetish comedy had been played. Swiftly he dressed himself, stole downstairs, out of the house, down to the river. There was no boat, but no matter, he would walk to Willow Head. Realizing that it was yet too early for the execution of his grim purpose, he halted at a wayside place, ate breakfast and waited for the sun. Then not in hurried haste, but deliberate in strength, he walked on to Willow Head, crossed over, found his neglected rope where, in a hollow stump in backsliding weakness he had hidden it, buttoned it beneath his coat and strode down into the swamp.

It was a long way to his canoe near the Muscadine lake, and then a long pull to Periwinkle house, but there was time enough. Stepho would not go away till Thursday. Ah, he would go away no more, for now on Tuesday he must settle with the spirit of Alfred Drace.

Mists hovered about, but the island was in a blaze of light. Silently the canoe slit the satin water. Silently he landed. Determined vengeance may pick its way as softly as eager love; and in the cane, sharper of whisper now that the weather was cool, he made not a sound. Out into the open he peered. No one within sight. On the bark of the live oak were the dead flowers of yesterday. There in the shade was the box that had served as table, once so prettily strewn with violets.

In spite of his vow of vengeance and his hatred of Stepho, these things caught at Drace's heart, shook his fixed purpose of action. For many minutes he waited—no sign of Stepho, of anyone. And then his blood leaped; for soft hands suddenly blinded him from behind, soft laughter bubbled over at his astonishment. And dark thoughts and dark purposes fled on the wind as he caught Nadine and hugged her close.

"Now for your punishment!" And he kissed her.

"Oh, you must not again! Virgil, I cannot like you when you are rude. . . . You must not!"

"I don't want you just to like me." "You do not? Then I will try not to. . . . Come and sit down, Virgil. You worked so hard for your kisses you must be tired. . . . How did you guess?"

"Guess what?" he asked as she led him to the sofa and he sat gazing entranced at her captured and imprisoned her guerrilla bands of hair. "That Father and Tony had gone hunting today. But they may be back at any time, Virgil. You must not stay."

"But I must stay; you hold me prisoner. I must stay until you love me as madly as I do you."

"As madly as you do me? That might not be so much mad, Virgil. But why should I love you?"

"Because you are to be my wife. We are engaged."

"Are we? I did not know that. Why you not tell me sooner?"

"I did, and now you must know it."

"But I did not. Then I must be stupid, yes?"

"The whole universe is stupid if it denies it. The angels are stupid if they fail to see it."

"Oh, you must not talk like that. It is worse than swearing the big oath. . . . And I am to be your wife, Mrs. Virgil? Then what do we do? Go about and sing with the fiddle?"

"No, we go to the beautiful places on earth and look upon them—together. We—"

"No, no, you must not think like that. You take my father by the wrist and he hate you. . . . And I do so wrong to see you. I am the sinner, but I believe that the Blessed One, she ask for my forgiveness. . . . No, Virgil, we can only play together and then . . . It will live in the mind, our childhood here. . . . My father is not well all the time now, and I must be good to him. . . . Only I must see you, sometimes. That is the only wrong I do him."

"For I—I love you. . . . I did not want to tell you, but I cannot keep it all the time down in my heart. . . . I dream of you all of the night, and I kneel down and pray that you always love me. . . . There, I have told you so much. And I kiss you, too. . . . Now—you may stay for a little time, and then you must go."

Boy and girl they played, not from the book but from love's ever-varying text. In his canoe they paddled afar off where the lily-pads paved the surface of the pond. They landed on a knoll where was spread over persimmon saplings an arbor of muscadine; here an adventurous catbird had her nest of young. She cried and fluttered about in great alarm, but when she saw that they were not her enemies, that they caught grasshoppers to feed her brood, she sat high among the vines, calling her mate, the muscadine, and here he came, scared at first, but when she had explained to him he sang his melody, ending with the cat-call whence comes his unpoetic name.

The sun had been speeding, and went behind a cloud. Fear seized Nadine, and taking Virgil's hand, she urged him toward the boat.

"My dear one, we must go now. The sun was jealous that we so happy and will go into the dark to pout. . . . I will show you the near way for you to come again, the way I came when there was the fire. You can leave the canoe in the rushes and you will need it only to cross over to the cane. But we must hurry now."

In the rushes opposite the island he hid his canoe, and then she conducted him along a narrow and sometimes treacherous trail. Coming to the foot-look, she halted.

"I must leave you here. But I stand for two minutes. The sun he will wink a few more times. . . . I am so glad now to know that I will be your wife. And I am strong and can work."

"Lord bless you, but you won't have to work."

His arms were about her, her cheek against his, and with happiness the world was glowing.

"Till Thursday!" he cried as he dipped his paddle.

"Till Thursday!" she echoed as she watched him go.

"Till Thursday!" muttered the sinister voice of old Stepho, who had approached softly through the undergrowth at the sound of voices, and had overheard their parting. But when he came to Periwinkle house, he gave no sign to Nadine that he had overheard—only talked of Monsieur Boyce and the fine dresses he would buy for her when she was his wife.

It was long past noon when Drace reached the river.

The General had gone over into another parish to attend a stock sale. Tytle said; and when she looked at Drace more closely, at his torn clothes, his muddy shoes, she sighed and sat down beside him where on the rustic bench he had dropped to rest before going to his room.

"Virgil," she said, "there is something troubling you. Now, you needn't tell me that it is business. I know what business is. I know all of its tricks; but I also know love and all of its tricks. Virgil, you are in love. Let me hope that it is not that Nina Spence. She isn't worthy of you; and besides, she doesn't belong to us. She is not of our world. Virgil, I am so sorry."

She put her hand on his arm, and he took it and affectionately kissed it.

"Aunt Tytle, I never saw the girl you speak of. I am in the—the three you might say, and have been—was before I got here, but not with her."

"But is it with anyone I know?"

"You have seen her, I have heard."

"Oh, you must tell me. It shall be sacred with me. If you only knew how people tell me their affairs of the heart. Even old Colonel Josh has told me. Now, why won't you?"

"I shall tell you, but I must put you on your honor. I said that you have seen her. You have; you spoke of her. Nadine—"

"Oh, Virgil! But her father!"

"Yes, I know. But let me tell you my story."

He told of his love, not of his father's death—told her nothing of his oath; she listened enraptured; and when he had finished, she mothered him with her arms about his neck.

About ten o'clock next day, while the family sat in the shade, up to the gate drew a resplendent carriage drawn by two black horses and driven by a negro in livery. Out stepped a man as tall as Lincoln and wearing a hat as high as his. His raiment flashed like the varnish of his equipage. Drace recognized him as he came through the gate, taking off his gloves, and the General cried out:

"Tytle, I wish I may die dead if it isn't Liberty Shottle!"

Colonel Shottle, at your service, replied Liberty, bowing and gesturing with his gloves in his hand.

"Well, Liberty!" cried his aunt, giving him a hug of welcome.

The General and Drace grasped him stroked his velvety raiment, urging him to a seat.

"Why all this, Colonel Shottle?"—from the General. "You don't mean to tell me that you have sold your fute stock?"

"Uncle Howard, sir, first issue order to have my carriage stored, my horses stabled, and my driver quartered. Please."

The order was issued, and they sat waiting for Shottle to explain his transformation.

"A simple story," he began, stretching out his legs. "But do not forestall me. Poker, dice, roulette, faro, hazard—all of them failed."

"And this comes of legitimate investment!" Tytle cried. "I knew it would. Oh, I knew it just had to come. Now tell us about it."

"It was an investment, Aunt Tytle. But let me not forestall myself. I left here on a boat, got broke. Finally I reached Tampa, Florida."

"Away down there, Liberty?"—from Tytle.

"Patience, my dear aunt. Tampa and broke! After a day of hope with its throat cut from ear to ear, I got on a boat bound for Havana. The Spanish captain gave me passage for service. He was studying English, and I agreed to explain to him certain niceties of our mother tongue, you understand; and I am sure that, reaching port, he knew more about gambling terms than he could have picked up in a year of close study in one of our ordinary schools. He was appreciative, generous, and gave me a bonus of five dollars. I went to a hotel, not of the first class, and it was there that I made my investment. The weather was warm and—"

"For gracious sake, Liberty, tell us!" his aunt urged him.

"That is my aim, but let us not be—"

(Continued Tomorrow)

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL

Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)
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LESSON FOR DECEMBER 24

A LESSON IN TRUST AND PREPAREDNESS

LESSON TEXT—Luke 12:13-40.
GOLDEN TEXT—The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment.—Luke 12:3.

PRIMARY TOPIC—The Story of a Foolish Rich Man.

JUNIOR TOPIC—A Foolish Rich Man.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Rich Toward God.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—True Riches.

Since on October 8 we had a lesson on the birth and childhood of Jesus, many will doubtless prefer to have this new lesson instead of the Christmas lesson.

I. A Warning Against Covetousness (vv. 13-21).

1. The Occasion (vv. 13-15). One of the company requested Jesus to be umpire in a disputed estate. Two brothers were in trouble over an inheritance. Christ refused to enter the sphere of the civil law and warned against the spirit of avarice. Christ's mission was preeminently spiritual.

2. Enforcement of the Warning (vv. 16-21). The parable of the rich man shows clearly that to be concerned with earthly riches while neglecting God is the height of folly. The Lord's warning is of great importance; today, for many are seeking gold and forgetting God. Note (1) his increase in goods (v. 16). His riches were rightly obtained, for the ground brought forth plentifully. This shows that a man may be rich because of the Lord's blessing upon him. (2) His perplexity (v. 17). His land was producing more than his barns would hold. He did not want it to go to waste. If he had possessed the right views of life and a sense of stewardship before God, he would have seen that his barns at least had enough for his personal needs and that he could have distributed his surplus to the needy and for benevolent purposes. (3) The fatal choice (vv. 18, 19). He chose to enlarge his barns and give up his life to ease and luxury. It ought to be a delightful task for men whom God has made rich to devote their time and energy to the distribution of their possessions to benevolent purposes. (4) The awful indictment (vv. 20, 21). God calls him a fool.

II. The Certain Cure for Anxiety (vv. 22-34).

Having shown the folly of the rich man who gained gold but lost God, He now urged the disciples to trust God and dismiss all anxious care. He assured them that they need not be anxious even for the necessities of life. Note:

1. The Argument (vv. 22, 23). This is summed up in one brief sentence: "The life is more than food, and the body is more than raiment." The God who gave the life and made the body should be trusted to provide food and clothing.

2. The Illustrations (vv. 24-28). (1) God's care for the fowls (vv. 24-26). The ravens do not sow nor reap—they have not storehouse or barn, yet they live, for God feeds them. If God does not forget the fowls, certainly He would do more for His children. (2) God's care for the flowers of the field (vv. 27, 28). If God is so careful of these flowers which appear but for a day, how much more will He clothe His children!

3. The Exhortations (vv. 29-34). (1) Make not the getting of food and clothes your chief concern. Trust God to provide them. (2) Seek the kingdom of God (v. 31). Those who make God's kingdom first shall have all their needs supplied (Phil. 4:19). (3) Be not afraid (v. 32). God's good pleasure is upon His own, and all good things will He give them. (4) Practice self-denial in order to be able to give gifts to those in need (vv. 33, 34). The doing of such deeds will tend to lift the thoughts upward to God—to trust Him.

III. Be Ready for the Coming of the Lord (vv. 35-40).

Having warned the disciples against the acquisition of worldly goods while forgetting God, and shown them the needlessness of anxiety for food and clothes, He shows them the blessedness of being in a state of readiness when the Lord shall come. Conviction as to the certainty of the Lord's coming is the sure cure for worldliness and anxious care. This attitude of heart He made clear by two parables—that of the returning of the Lord and that of the thief. The Lord will be so pleased with those who are waiting for Him that He will take delight in sitting at the banquet with them, and even serve them. The parable of the thief shows that the time of the Lord's coming is not known.

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Paul's Wish.

I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord; if by any means I might attain to the resurrection of the dead.—Philippians 3:8-11.

So Many Ravens.

The Lord never had so many ravens as he has this morning.—T. De Witt Talmage.

God is Known Everywhere.

In Judah is God known; His name is great in Israel.—Psalm 70:1.

JOHN D. BROKE GIFT RECORD

The Brooklyn Eagle.

The Rockefeller fortune is the greatest in America. It has tripled since 1911. John D. Rockefeller holds first place in the multi-millionaire class. And he has been one of the most systematic and persistent planners to dispose of a large part of his millions in all the world. When he gave 100 million dollars in 1919—half to the general educational board and half to the Rockefeller Foundation—he broke the record in single-handed philanthropic gifts in the history of Big Giving, and he brought his gift total up to 500 million dollars, and since then he has given away more than 63 million dollars additional.

As an example of the methods and business-like manner in which the Rockefeller millions are disbursed for philanthropic purposes the conduct of the Rockefeller Foundation may be cited. There a world war is being waged against disease—disease carried to all parts of the world by commerce. Fighting disease never can be a success if it be confined to national boundaries. The fight must be carried on through international agencies, and so the Foundation is seeking co-operation among all nations.

Forty thousand separate and distinct species of locusts, the historic pests which annually cost the world about 100 million dollars, have been identified and collected by American scientists.

D. V. Vandiver of Columbia was in Mexico on business Tuesday.

SUBSCRIBE FOR THE LEDGER.

FARMERS EXCHANGE

RATES—10 cents a line an insertion. A line consists of 5 words. (Minimum charge for ads in this column 50c.)

WANTED.—From half to dozen young guineas. Phone 81 dlt 43-21.

LOAN.—Eastern and Home money on farm and city property. Low rates. J. G. Loken, 117 E. Promenade St. wdt 279-151eod.

FOR SALE.—50 acres improved small farm, close to Mexico. Cheap. Terms to suit. R. M. White. 288-31-43-21 p.

FOR SALE.—Used Ellington piano, mahogany case. Good as new. Will sell cheap for cash or good note. Address A. A. Lamar, 5518 Waterman, St. Louis, Mo. 41-31.

FOR SALE.—Straube Mellow-Harp player piano, walnut finish; the company's best make, in the best of condition. Bench and cushion included. Reasonable terms. Write Wade A. Goodrich, Adm. Molino, Mo. 295-22 and wlt p.

NOTICE OF STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING.

Notice is hereby given that the annual stockholders' meeting of the Farmers Elevator Company of Rush Hill, Mo., will be held at the business office of said company to wit:

At the Elevator in Rush Hill, Audrain County, Missouri, on TUESDAY, 2nd day of JANUARY, 1933, for the purpose of electing seven directors to serve for the ensuing year and for the transaction of such other business as may regularly come before the meeting.

The meeting will be convened at 9 o'clock a. m. and will remain in session until at least 12 o'clock, noon, unless the object of the meeting be sooner accomplished.

W. C. MELAHN, Pres.

RAY SPENCER, Sec.

Attest: 44-21. Adv.

BRIDE AUCTIONED

WHEN DESERTED

AT ALTAR HOUR

LODZ, Poland.—Dowry bidding for a bride figured in a recent wedding at the border town of Bialystok, according to news brought here by guests returning from the nuptials.

At the hour fixed for the ceremony, the bridegroom failed to put in an appearance. The young bride, her attendants and the guests waited away a long period of waiting with dances and conversation. Finally at 11 p. m. a message arrived from the missing principal, saying he would conclude the marriage only on condition that the dowry were increased 50 per cent.

For a time it looked as if there would be no wedding, and the guests prepared to depart. But the day was saved when one of the young men present rose to the occasion by announcing he would marry the young lady without the "bonus" demanded.

His offer was accepted and the wedding took place.

The original bridegroom, having undergone a change of heart, appeared just as the benediction was being pronounced but was, of course, obliged to return home a bachelor.

The total production of bituminous coal for the first nine months of this year was nearly 8 per cent less than for the corresponding period last year.

John Paul Jones of Fulton was in Mexico Tuesday.

36 MILLION NEEDED TO RUN STATE

Jefferson City, Dec. 20.—For the next two years, the various state institutions and departments ask appropriations totaling \$36,332,567.41, more than 15 million dollars in excess of the estimated revenue for the 2-year period. The requests have been received by the state tax commission, now compiling the budget to be presented before the next session of the general assembly.

The state tax commission is engaged in reducing the requests to fit the estimated revenue and the results of their pruning will be known within the next forty-eight hours. The commission will not recommend appropriations in excess of the estimated revenue.

In addition to the appropriations requested by the institutions and departments, there are appropriations

for such purposes as assessment and collection of the revenue, criminal costs, salaries and expenses of circuit judges, paper for state printing, one-third of the revenue for the public schools, payment of county foreign insurance tax to the several counties, improvement of the state house grounds and all the items that go to make up the general budget outside requests listed. These will total approximately 12 million dollars.

It is estimated the state university request will be cut approximately 2 million dollars in the recommendations of the tax commission, and others in proportion.

Xmas CIGARS from 50c to \$5.00 a box at Alamo Drug Co. wlt adv.

GOVERNOR Hyde, while attending the meeting of Governors in Washington stated the trouble with the enforcement of prohibition in Missouri was the lack of zeal on the part of the "dry" agent. This is generally the case except where they are subsidized to allow the violations of the law with a view of giving the impression that it cannot be enforced.

SUBSCRIBE FOR THE LEDGER.

The Morris Bulletin

Mixed Nuts, lb. 20c

This is our own mixture and is composed of Almonds, Walnuts, Pecans, Filberts and Brazils. All 1922 American Nuts. Not a cheap foreign nut in the lot.

Candy Assorted Chocolates of 50c quality. lb. 35c

GRAPE FRUIT Big ones from Florida. Each 10c

Figs, fancy eating	lb. 50c	Fancy Howe Cranberries qt. 20c
Pecan Stuffed Dates	lb. 50c	Baltimore Fresh Oysters qt. 75c
Nut Stuffed Prunes	lb. 75c	Red Sweet Potatoes lb. 65c
Imp. Cluster Raisins	lb. 50c	Richelleu Eating Figs lb. 65c
Cal. Cluster Raisins	lb. 30c	Richelleu Marshmallows lb. 60c
Bulk Cluster Raisins	lb. 20c	Fanc. Covered Cherries lb. 60c
No. 1 S S Cal. Walnuts	lb. 40c	Fancy Filberts lb. 20c
No. 1 X L S S Almonds	lb. 40c	Brazils, Extra Quality lb. 20c
No. 1 Fancy Pecans	lb. 40c	No. 1 Almonds lb. 30c

Oranges, doz. 40c to 60c

Cal. Navels—Bright and Seedless.

Fred A. Morris, The Grocer

The Buyer's Guide

I take this opportunity to thank the good people of Mexico for their LARGE and LIBERAL patronage in the past. The HIGHEST quality for the LEAST money shall continue to be my SLOGAN that you may have the BEST and the MOST for your dollar.

The "Chain Stores" are beginning to meet my prices but not my quality.

I buy your produce for cash or trade; patronize home industries; and buy my goods from Mexico traveling salesmen. They live and spend their money in Mexico.

The "Chain Stores" buy no produce from the farmers, buy no goods from Mexico traveling salesmen; but instead send their money to the City every week.

Do you want your money to stay in MEXICO?

I pledge you the HIGHEST Market price for your produce; the very BEST goods that money can buy; and the LOWEST possible prices.

For your Christmas needs; LISTEN, as the prices fall.

Bananas (per dozen) 25c

16 Gauge Shotgun Shells (smokeless) 90c

20 Gauge Shotgun Shells ((smokeless) 90c

22 Long Cartridges (per box) 20c

22 Short Cartridges (per box) 20c

SPECIAL. Red River Ohio Potatoes.—

Cabbage—per hundred pounds.—\$2.00

If you have cabbage bought from me; bring your bag and get them.

Phone 122.—

Cleve Smith

Everwear Silk Hosiery

Make your reservations NOW for this attractive dependable hosiery to meet your

HOLIDAY REQUIREMENTS.

Packed in Christmas boxes.

A SUITABLE, SERVICEABLE, and PRAC-

TICABLE GIFT for your family or friends.

COLLINS BROS.

Xmas Specials Quality Groceries

Big Special for Xmas Week. A Saving of 20c on a dollar. The Nationally Advertised MONARCH COFFEE. Millions of Pounds sold every year all over the U. S. We have sold this brand for years. The Quality is the best that can be obtained. Regular price is 40c a pound. Buy it this week in 3 pound sealed boxes;

3 Pounds For \$1.00

You should see these fine largest sizes, ALL new Mixed Nuts. Buy them now. 35c a lb.

Mince Meat made of the finest quality Raisins, citron, etc. in 1 pound glass jars 30c in 2 pound glass jars . . . 50c

Full quart jars of large Queen Olives. Only . . . 55c

Number 2 cans pitted red Cherries best grade, for pies, etc. 30c

High grade package Mince Meat. Per pkg. 15c

Number 2 cans fresh green lima beans. Pilot Brand Only 15c

Large cans Sliced Pine Apple in heavy syrup 8 slices to the can. While this lot lasts we are going to sell three of these 40c cans for \$1.00

Number 2 cans of real high grade grated or crushed Pine Apple in heavy syrup per can 25c

Large Cans American Lady Brand Fancy Table Peaches 3 cans for \$1.00

New High grade seeded or Seedless Raisins 15 Oz. pkg. each 20c